

“The Importance of the Delaware Estuary Program to New Jersey”

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Delaware Estuary Program
Estuary Implementation Committee



Delaware Estuary Program in New Jersey

- ❑ Nominated by the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware for inclusion in the National Estuary Program in 1988
- ❑ The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was signed by the Governors of the three states and the two regional USEPA administrator in 1996
- ❑ The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) was established in 1996 to support the Program through fundraising and education and outreach
- ❑ The States and DRBC administered the program initially, however, PDE now manages the day to day operations of the program



Delaware Estuary Program in New Jersey

- ❑ Program Committees are Steering Committee; Estuary Implementation Committee (EIC) and Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
- ❑ The Steering Committee directs the program:
 - ❑ Commissioners/Secretaries of the 3 states (or their designees);
 - ❑ Regional Administrators of EPA Region 2 and Region 3;
 - ❑ Executive Director of the DRBC;
 - ❑ Commissioner of the Philadelphia Water Department;
 - ❑ Chairman of the Board of Directors of the PDE.
- ❑ EIC implements the SC policy decisions at quarterly meetings
- ❑ STAC provides scientific and technical expertise

Delaware Bay Oysters

Habitat Restoration

- ☐ PDE has worked with NJDEP, Rutgers, and other New Jersey groups to perform shell planting in Delaware Bay (2005-2010)
- ☐ Assist Rutgers with monitoring oyster stocks and provide tech guidance to NJDEP (via the Oyster Stock Assessment effort) on oyster population health and restoration
- ☐ Developed the New Jersey Shellfish Conservation Priorities report as part of the TNC-led effort in 2012-2013

Delaware Bay Oysters

Source: PDE

Year	Shell Planted
2005	280,000 bushels
2006	505,500 bushels
2007	681,500 bushels
2008	427,000 bushels
2009	237,000 bushels
2010	93,500 bushels (NJ only)
2011	159,000 bushels

Delaware Estuary Living Shoreline Initiative

Water Quality and Resiliency

- ☐ Since 2007, PDE has developed new tactics (with Rutgers), worked with NJDEP to set design standards, scientific monitoring frameworks, and outreach to the public and marine contractors
- ☐ First on-the-ground projects were piloted in New Jersey, and more projects have been put on the ground in New Jersey than the other basin states
- ☐ Now expanding into the urban corridor (Camden) while testing more aggressive tactics on the Delaware Bayshore (post-Sandy)

Harrison Avenue Landfill

85 acres; operated 1952-1971

Municipal Solid Waste

No landfill cover

Eagles, Freshwater mussels

~1 mile river frontage (Cooper and Delaware)

In Cramer Hill neighborhood

\$25 Million in remediation secures \$100 M Kroc Center

Serve South Jersey & Philadelphia Metro area

\$323,000 in Discretionary 319(h) awarded from EPA



Harrison Landfill, North Camden

Leads: PDE/NJDEP

Hybrid Mosaic Concept

Site Evals in 2015

Studies, Design in 2016

Permit Ready in 2017



Mid Atlantic Coastal Wetland Assessment (MACWA)

Wetland Assessment and Monitoring

- ❑ Helps track and understand wetland losses (acre per day), pinpoint restoration needs, design successful projects, and monitor restoration project performance.
- ❑ 4-tier MACWA program was launched in 2007-2008
- ❑ 7 long-term monitoring sentinel sites (DE Estuary, Barnegat)
- ❑ hundreds of rapid assessment points

Delaware Estuary Science Summit

Held in January at the Grand Hotel in Cape May every other year



The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast blue ocean under a bright blue sky. On the left side, a bright sun is partially visible, creating a strong horizontal lens flare that stretches across the middle of the image. The sky is filled with soft, wispy white clouds. The water in the foreground shows gentle ripples.

Thank You!